

Application No.: 10/784,611  
Filed: February 23, 2004  
TC Art Unit: 2617  
Confirmation No.: 8298

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1-35. (canceled)

36. (currently amended) A method of controlling communications between ~~from a first wireless communication device and another communication device~~, comprising the steps of:

storing within a database at least one parameter corresponding to at least one restriction on use of said first wireless communication device for outgoing communications, said at least one restriction comprising at least one of a time of day restriction defining at least one time period during which an outgoing communication from said first wireless communication device is not permitted, an accessibility restriction comprising at least one identifier associated with ~~another~~ a second communication device that cannot be reached from said first wireless communication device, and a location restriction defining at least one location at which an outgoing communication from said first wireless communication device is not permitted;

forwarding said at least one parameter from said database to said first wireless communication device and storing said at least one parameter in a memory within said first wireless communication device;

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
OAGNEDIN & LEBOVICI LLP  
TEL. (617) 542-2290  
FAX. (617) 451-0313

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in response to an attempt to initiate a communication from said first wireless communication device to said ~~other~~-second communication device, retrieving said at least one parameter from said memory and determining via use of a processor within said first wireless communication device, whether a connection of said communication from said first wireless communication device to said ~~other~~-second communication device is contrary to said at least one restriction;

in the event the connection of said communication from said first wireless communication device to said ~~other~~-second communication device is not contrary to said at least one restriction, allowing the communication between said first wireless communication device and said ~~other~~-second communication device; and

in the event the connection of said communication from said first wireless communication device to said ~~other~~-second communication device ~~phone~~-is contrary to said at least one restriction, preventing the communication from said first wireless communication device to said ~~other~~-second communication device.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said communication is a telephone call, said first wireless

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communication device comprises a wireless phone, and said ~~other~~  
second communication device is another telephone and said  
preventing step includes the step of outputting a predetermined  
message for delivery to said wireless phone indicating that said  
call cannot be connected due to a restriction on use.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said  
accessibility restriction defining at least one identifier that  
cannot be reached from said first wireless communication device  
comprises a list of identifiers associated with other  
communication devices that are inaccessible from said first  
wireless communication device, said method further including the  
steps of:

determining whether an identifier associated with said ~~other~~  
second communication device is included in said list of  
identifiers; and

in the event said identifier is included in said list of  
identifiers, preventing said communication from being completed.

39. (currently amended) The method of claim 37, wherein said  
predetermined message indicates that said ~~other~~second

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communication device associated with said identifier is inaccessible.

40. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, further including the step of:

determining whether an identifier corresponding to said ~~ether~~ second communication device is included in a list of identifiers that can always be reached; and

in the event the connection of said communication is contrary to a use restriction comprising one of said time, date, and location restriction, and said identifier corresponding to said ~~ether~~ second communication device is included in said list of identifiers corresponding to other communication devices that can always be reached, allowing said communication between said first wireless communication device and said ~~ether~~ second communication device to proceed.

41. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, wherein said first wireless communication device comprises a wireless phone, said ~~ether~~ second communication device comprise another phone, said communication is a call from said wireless phone to said other phone, the method further including the steps of:

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determining whether a predetermined allocation of time for a specified control period associated with said wireless phone has been fully depleted;

determining whether an identifier corresponding to said other phone is included in a list of identifiers associated with other phones that may always be called; and

in the event said predetermined allocation of time associated with said wireless phone has been fully depleted and said identifier corresponding to said other phone is in said list of ~~identifier~~identifiers that may always be called, connecting said wireless phone to said other phone.

42. (currently amended) The method of claim 36 wherein said determining step comprises the step of executing program code on said processor within said first wireless communication device to determine whether the connection of said communication is contrary to said at least one restriction.

43. (original) Apparatus for controlling usage of a wireless device comprising:

a first memory within said wireless device for storing at least one parameter specifying at least one restriction on use of

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP  
TEL. (617) 542-2290  
FAX. (617) 451-0313

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said wireless device for outgoing communications, said at least one restriction on use comprising at least one of a time of day restriction defining times during which an outgoing communication from said wireless device is not permitted, an accessibility restriction defining at least one identifier associated with another communication device that is inaccessible for outgoing communications from said wireless device, and a location restriction defining at least one restricted location from which an outgoing communications from said wireless device is not permitted;

at least one processor within said wireless device;

a second memory operable to store program code executable on said at least one processor; and

program code stored in said second memory and executable on said at least one processor, said program code operable:

to detect the initiation of a communication from said wireless device to said other communication device and, responsive to said initiation, to determine whether a connection of said communication between said wireless device and said other communication device is contrary to said at least one restriction;

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP  
TEL. (617) 542-2290  
FAX. (617) 461-0313

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to permit said communication from said wireless device to said other communication device in the event said connection is not contrary to said at least one restriction; and

to prevent said communication from said wireless device to said other communication device in the event said communication is contrary to at least one of said at least one restriction.

44. (original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said first and second memories comprise different portions of the same memory.

45. (currently amended) A system for controlling usage of a wireless ~~phonedevice~~, comprising:

~~said system operative in conjunction with a billing system including at least one first server operable to execute a billing process for controlling billing of at least one call involving said wireless device, and to execute a supervisory process for controlling usage of said wireless device;~~

~~and a at least one first database containing parameters defining billing parameters and predetermined billing criteria applicable to said wireless device, said system comprising at~~

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least one first database being accessible by said at least one server during execution of said billing process,

~~a second server operable to execute a supervisory process for controlling usage of said wireless phone as an overlay to said billing process~~

wherein said billing process is operative to permit a billing administrator to establish said billing parameters and said predetermined billing criteria in said at least one first database; and

a second database containing at least one restriction parameter defining at least one restriction on the use of a value defining a time duration that said wireless device may be used within a predetermined period, said second database being communicably coupled to said second server,

wherein said supervisory process is operative to permit an account supervisor having secure access rights to said second database to specify said at least one restriction parameter,

wherein said billing process is operative to determine if said call is connectable based upon said billing parameters and said predetermined billing criteria,

wherein said second server being operative supervisory process is operative to determine if said call is connectable based upon



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whether said call, if connected, would violate said at least one restriction on the use of said wireless device,

wherein, in the event one of said billing process and said supervisory process determines that said call involving said wireless device is not connectable, ~~to maintain a record of time usage for said wireless phone within said predetermined period,~~ said system is operative to prevent a said call involving said wireless phone device from being connected, and

wherein, in the event ~~said both of said billing process and said supervisory process determine that said call involving record of time usage indicates that said wireless phone device is connectable, has been used within said predetermined period for a period equal to said time duration, and~~ said system is operative to allow a said call involving said wireless phone device to be connected in the event said record of time usage indicates that said wireless phone has been used in said predetermined period for a period less than said time duration.

46. (currently amended) The system of claim 45 wherein said ~~first and second servers~~ at least one server ~~comprise~~ comprises a single server operative to execute said billing process and said supervisory process.

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP  
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47. (original) The system of claim 45 wherein said first database and said second database comprise portions of a single database.

48. (currently amended) The system of claim 45 wherein said second database contains a value defining a time duration that said wireless device may be used within a predetermined period, wherein said predetermined period comprises a calendar month and said value comprises a specified number of minutes, and wherein said supervisory process is operative:

to maintain a record of time usage for said wireless phone within said predetermined period; and

to prevent said call involving said wireless phone from being connected in the event said record of time usage indicates that said wireless phone has been used within said predetermined period for a period equal to said time duration.

49. (currently amended) The system of claim 45 wherein said supervisory process is operative to maintain a record of time usage for said wireless device within a predetermined period, wherein said second database includes an always accessible number associated with another communication device that may always be

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,  
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP  
TEL. (617) 542-2290  
FAX. (617) 451-0313

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called by said wireless ~~phone-device~~, and wherein said billing process second server is operative to exclude time involving calls between said wireless ~~phone-device~~ and said other communication device from said record of time usage.

50. (new) The system of claim 45 wherein said billing administrator has first defined access rights to information contained within said at least one first database, and wherein said account supervisor has second defined access rights to information contained within said second database, said second defined access rights being different from said first defined access rights.